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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/816,372	03/26/2001	Yasuhiko Kanemasa	826.1710	7328
21171	7590	06/03/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BROSS, EDWARD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2126	

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/816,372	KANEMASA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edward Bross	2126	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 9-17, 19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. (5,581,691).

4. As to claims 1, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a data interchange system for executing a series of process flows among a plurality of process executing devices, the process executing device comprising (col. 4, lines 16-24):

a process executing data interchanging unit interchanging process executing data for executing a process with other process executing device ("flow controller" col. 5, lines 9-14),
and

an interprocess association information interchanging unit interchanging with the other process executing device of interprocess association information that associates the process

executed by the process executing device with the process executed by the other executing device (“Flow Instance ID” col. 11, lines 39-61).

5. As to claim 2, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including interprocess association information is information that associates the processes with one another using a part of the process executing data (col. 11, line 63 – col. 12 line 1 and Fig. 17 “Workspace Descriptor”).

6. As to claim 3, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including interprocess association information is part of the process executing data, and is the information for associating processes with each other using data that takes on an exclusive values for each process of the series of process flows (“unique Flow Instance ID” col. 11, lines 57-60).

7. As to claim 9, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including interprocess association information interchanging unit dynamically determines the other process executing device to which the interprocess association information is transmitted using a part of the process executing data (col. 13, lines 3-5).

8. As to claim 10, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including process executing device further comprising:

an association definition storing unit storing a method to define the interprocess association as an association definition (Fig. 17); and

an association unit associating the process executed by the process executing device with the process executed by the other process executing device (col. 12, lines 34-38).

9. As to claim 11, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including the process executing device further comprising:

a device interprocess association unit associating the processes executed by process executing device that are identical to the process executed by the other process executing device using the interprocess association information transmitted from the other process executing device (implied by integrating upstream parallel work flow paths using the Flow Instance ID, col. 5, lines 51-52).

10. As to claim 12, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including an interprocess association information storing unit storing an interprocess association information that associates process executed by each said plurality of process executing devices with the process executed by the other executing device, which is transmitted by the plurality process executing devices (114 Fig. 1); and

an interprocess association information distribution unit distributing the interprocess association information stored in said interprocess association information storing unit to the process executing device which is related to the interprocess association information (130, Fig. 2).

11. As to claim 13, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including an addressee definition storing unit storing a method for determining an addressee of the interprocess association information as an addressee definition (combination of the Flow Instance, Step Type, and Port ID, col. 12, lines 33-39),

and said interprocess association information distribution unit distributes interprocess association information based on the addressee definition ("... to which the input event signal is directed." col. 12, lines 38-39).

12. As to claim 14, Hsu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including interprocess association information distribution unit dynamically determines the addressee of the process association information using a part of a process executing data transmitted from the plurality of process executing devices (col. 12, lines 33-39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 4-8, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. (5,581,691).

15. As to claims 4, 18 and 20, Hsu does not disclose interprocess association information interchanging unit interchanges the interprocess association information with the other process executing device using a transfer method different from the method used by said process executing data interchanging unit. However, it is well known in the art to use different transfer methods for different sets of data.

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to interchange the two types of data using different transfer methods in order to efficiently transfer the different types of data..

17. As to claim 5, Hsu does not disclose interprocess association information interchanging unit interchanges the interprocess association information at a timing that is not synchronized with the timing for interchanging the process executing data by said process executing data interchanging unit. However, it is well known in the art to deliver two related but separate data asynchronously.

18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deliver the two types of data asynchronously in order to deliver information as it becomes available to reduce latency.

19. As to claim 6, Hsu does not disclose said interprocess association information interchanging unit periodically and collectively interchanges the interprocess association information. However, periodically interchanging data throughout a system is well known in the art.

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20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to periodically and collectively interchange the information in order to keep the system's components synchronized.

21. As to claims 7 and 8, Hsu does not explicitly disclose interprocess association information interchanging transmits the other process executing device inquiry information for inquiring about the process which executed by other process executing device and is related with the process executed by the process executing device in addition to the process association information, and wherein

the other process executing device further comprising:

an inquiry response unit associating the processes executed by both process executing devices and responding to the inquiry information from the process executing device.

22. However, such an inquiry and response system is implied by the ability to associate the Flow Instance, Step Type, and Port ID with the input event signals (col. 12, lines 26-39).

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Bross whose telephone number is 305-8754. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on 305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EB



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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